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## *Helping move Basrah forward*

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From left, USAID Representative Dr. Rave Aulakh, engineer Esam, team lead RTS – Basrah, UNDP Representative Ugo and, far right, U.S. Army Maj. Daniel George. (USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani)

**BASRAH, Iraq**—The Basrah Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) along with the Gulf Region South district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (GRS), United States Agency for International Development – Iraq (USAID) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) recently concluded a two-day Basrah budget execution support workshop at the Basrah International Airport.

Held June 17-18, the event provided a clear understanding of how the international community can support Al Basrah

Governor's Office and Technical Directorates for the design and implementation of projects in 2008, said Army Maj. Daniel George, a PRT engineer assigned from the GRS Basrah Area Office. Almost 60 Iraqi Government Officials representing the Governor's office and eight Technical Directorates were given information to help them move Al Basrah Province forward.

"The aim of the two-day workshop was to enable the Provincial Director Generals to get their projects on line more quickly and efficiently, and build the capacity and



Engineer Qa'ad, PRT of the Basrah Area Office, and Urban Planner Engineer Nihad explain some points at the two day workshop. (USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani)

technical skills of the Technical Directorates staff," he explained.

"This was a positive workshop -- the local government was willing to discuss their strengths and weakness among each other, [using] us as facilitators, and the DGs developed a way ahead," he added.

Dr. Rave Aulakh, USAID Representative said, "This was a great workshop following from the Istanbul recommendations. We were able to identify the exact needs of the governor's office and the technical directorates in terms of training and equipment and were able to discuss solutions to their problems," she added.

Majeed Aziz, a representative of Ministry of Communication, agreed. He said, "This workshop is the first of its kind for Iraqi government departments and it en-

ables us (as government officials) to more efficiently design and implement our projects."

Galli Al-Hussein, chief of Basrah Provincial Reconstruction Development Council (PRDC), said, "This joint workshop was very useful for Al Basrah Governor's Office and the Technical Directorates and it will have a very good economic impact on not only the Basrah Province, but all of Iraq's Provinces."



Workshop session at Basrah International Airport attended by the Governor's Officials on the front row. (USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani)

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